

Amendments to the Specification:

[0006] Jaw wiring (maxillomandibular fixation or MMF) is a more aggressive treatment to restrict solid food intake which is effective but does not always result in long term weight loss as many ~~patient's~~ patients rapidly regain weight having reverted to previous eating habits once the jaw fixation is removed. There are reported success treatments for some patients after MMF followed by use of a nylon waist cord. Jaw wiring can produce a panic fear reaction (tension and anxiety regarding the procedure and risk of choking) which results[[,] in the patient defaulting by unwiring the jaws themselves. In many cases, jaw wiring can give rise to dental health complications such as episodes of periodontal pain and mandibular limitations of movement after removal of the fixation. Where obese patients are edentulous in one or both jaws, dentures are secured under general anaesthetic to the edentulous jaws by various wiring methods and the jaws immobilized by inter-dental wires where teeth are present and inter-maxillary wires where they are not. The mean fixation duration of jaw wiring is average 7 months and MMF has been used up to 18 months.

[0030] According to a second aspect of the invention there is provided a dieting aid comprising at least one pair of frames which can be secured to the maxillary and mandibular jaws of a wearer by suitable means, each of said frames having secured thereto magnetic means in a disposition such that the magnetic means of the maxillary frame at least partially superpose the magnetic means of the mandibular frame when secured within the mouth of a wearer, characterized in that the frames are cast from impressions of the maxillary and mandibular jaws so as to fit snugly over the plurality of teeth for which said frames are cast and further characterized in that the frames are provided with inter-dentally extensible and retractable ~~means~~ screws capable of releasably securing the frames over said plurality of teeth.

[0063] Referring firstly to Figure 1 there is shown a maxillary dentition 4 and a mandibular dentition 6, said maxillary dentition having a palate 8 and teeth 10, 12 to which cast frames 14, 16, are ~~secure~~ secured by means of interdental screws 18, 20. The frames 14, 16 are ideally separate or may form part of a single maxillary frame, but in any event each of said ~~frame~~ frames 14, 16 is provided with a magnet 22, 24 whose orientation is selected according to the desired direction of magnetic attractive or repulsive force. The magnet means are preferably split pole

magnets. Shoulder formations are preferably provided partially or entirely around, or to one side of either the upper and lower magnetic means which are provided on superposed frames. The magnetic means provided on the alternate superposed frame abut the shoulder formations when the jaws are in their occluded condition to prevent significant lateral movement thereof.

[0071] On the buccal side of the frame 50 are provided a plurality of magnets 58, 60, 62, 64 which are retained optionally releasably within collets (not shown) laser welded to a buccal side wall portion 66 disposed on the opposite side of the lattice 52 to the side wall portion 54. The depth of the side wall portion 66 is such that the frame can be rotated into position without the lower edge 68 of the side wall portion 66 interfering with the upper surface of any of the teeth over which the frame is disposed (see Figure 5A).

Abstract of the Disclosure

~~A dieting device which prevents or inhibits oral ingestion of food is disclosed. The device comprises at least one pair of frames which are secured to the maxillary and mandibular dentitions respectively, or part thereof, of a wearer. One of the frames has mounted to one side thereof one or more permanent split pole magnets which magnetically attract either a corresponding set of magnets or a ferromagnetic mass mounted to one side of the corresponding frame secured to the alternate dentition to ensure that the jaws are constrained to assume a permanently or semi-permanently occluded condition. Opposing frames are magnetically pulled toward one another or repelled from one another to inhibit, but not prevent, ingestion or mastication, respectively. The frames are cast from impressions of the dentitions of the wearer and ideally four separate frames are provided which cover the upper and lower, left and right dental quadrants respectively. The frames are rotated over the dental quadrants and by virtue of their being precisely cast, fit snugly over the plurality of teeth included in said the quadrants. The frames consist of include a cover portion which overlies the teeth biting surfaces and a side wall portion on one side which overlies the exposed areas of the teeth above the gums. On the alternate side of the frames are mounted inter-dentally extensible and retractable screws by which the frames can be clamped for clamping the frames to the teeth to prevent any removal thereof by the wearer. The magnetic attraction between upper and lower dentitions to which the frames have been applied is not so great so as to be impossible to overcome by the wearer and~~

~~thus the jaws can be opened in an emergency, but in use the frames will make mastication, and thus oral ingestion of food very difficult.~~